

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

---



**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
***Michael G. Matlick, Acting State Fire Marshal***

Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)

**June 28, 2006**

**Contact:** Karen Jones, Deputy State Fire Marshal, (360) 753-0435

## **Personal Fireworks Require Personal Responsibility**

Chief John R. Batiste announced that with retail fireworks stands opening across the state today, everyone is reminded that, "personal fireworks require personal responsibility."

There is much that can be done to protect children and others from fireworks injuries says Acting State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick who offers the following,

"First set family boundaries, only adults should light fireworks. In 2005, 856 fireworks incidents were reported to the State Fire Marshal, with 25 percent of these incidents having no adult supervision. This includes 223 injuries, of which 51 were children under the age of 14. Supervision is paramount in keeping children safe. Second, fireworks should not be readily available to tempt the curiosity of young children, and should be stored in a secured location to prohibit their access. Third, check with your local fire or police department for additional restrictions in your area. Most importantly talk about safety. Summer weather conditions make grasses and other vegetation dry and vulnerable to fire. Use care in selecting the area where you will be discharging fireworks."

Don't take any chances, be sure the fireworks you purchase are legal to possess and discharge. Know the dates and times fireworks are allowed in your community. Stay away from high powered illegal explosive devices such as M80's, M100's and larger. The damage they cause can be devastating and life altering.

Remember, public displays are a safe and fun way to enjoy fireworks. To learn about a community fireworks display near you, visit our website at [www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks). For more information contact your local fire department, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

###

# Washington State Patrol Fact Sheet—Celebrate Legally

*Chief John R. Batiste*

---



Office of the State Fire Marshal  
*Michael G. Matlick, Acting State Fire Marshal*

Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)

## Personal Fireworks Require Personal Responsibility

### Discharge Dates and Times

“State Legal” fireworks can be discharged in areas with no bans or restrictions:

June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Between 12:00 Noon and 11:00 P.M.
June 29 <sup>th</sup> through July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Between 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 Midnight.
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Between 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Between 6:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M.

### Bans and Restrictions

- Most apartment complexes do not allow fireworks. If you discharge fireworks, you could be evicted.
- Fireworks are not allowed in state or federal parks or on Department of Natural Resource lands.
- Fireworks are banned in Benton, Franklin, Okanogan, Spokane and Yakima Counties.
- Fireworks are restricted in Chelan, Kitsap, Lincoln and Thurston Counties. A restriction is when the dates or times fireworks can be sold or discharged is a shorter time period, or are more restricted than in other areas.
- Approximately 50 cities have banned fireworks and nearly 50 cities have restricted the use of fireworks.

### Fireworks Illegal in Washington:

- 1.4G Fireworks (State banned Fireworks)
- Fire Departments can confiscate/Law Enforcement can seize
- **Examples:** Firecrackers, Bottle Rockets, Sky Rockets, Missile-Type Rockets, Chasers, and Salutes

### Illegal Explosive Devices:

- Any firework that has been altered is an illegal explosive device and is a federal offence to possess or discharge.
- Can be confiscated by the Police Bomb Squad.
- **Examples:** M-80, M-150, M-200, M-500, M-600, M-1000, M-1300, M- 3500, Tennis Ball Bombs and other homemade or altered fireworks

# Washington State Patrol Fact Sheet—Celebrate Safely

*Chief John R. Batiste*

---



**Office of the State Fire Marshal**

***Michael G. Matlick, Acting State Fire Marshal***

Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)

## **Personal Fireworks Require Personal Responsibility**

### **Injuries**

- 223 fireworks related injuries were reported in 2005
- Holding fireworks is the leading cause of fireworks injuries
- Sparklers burn at over 1,600 degrees and are one of the leading fireworks involved in injuries
- M-80's or larger can cause amputation of fingers or even a hand. They are explosive devices and are illegal to possess anywhere in the nation.

### **Fires**

- 633 fireworks-related fires were reported to the State Fire Marshal in 2005
- Bottle rockets are the leading cause of fireworks related fires
- Fireworks are one of the leading causes of intentionally set wild land fires

### **Safety Tips**

Don't wait, talk about fireworks and safety. Educate every member of your family about the following 3 B's:

#### **Be Prepared...before you light fireworks**

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets
- Store fireworks out of children's reach
- Keep pets safe indoors
- Always keep water handy

#### **Be Safe...when lighting fireworks**

- Only adults should light fireworks
- Only use outdoors
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud"

#### **Be Responsible...after you finish**

- Soak used fireworks in water
- Be considerate--clean up used fireworks
- Keep matches and lighters away from children